UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.13/33
11 April 1987

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
13-20 April 1987

Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-second session of the Commission/ thriteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
23-27 April 1987

Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE JOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT

* E/ECA/TPCM.8/1
** E/ECA/CM.13/1

87-897

A. Attendance and organization of work

1. The fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment was held at ECA, Addis Ababa from 9 to 13 February 1987.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Economic Commission for Africa: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following countries were represented at the meeting by observers: Cuba, France, Holy See, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

4. The following United Nations organs, organizations and bodies were represented at the meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

5. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended as observers: Africa Union of Architects (AUA), International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Shelter-Afrique.

Opening addresses (agenda item 1)

6. In his opening statement, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, highlighted the following:

7. He noted that when the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment met from 22 to 26 July 1985, the African continent was going through one of the worst crisis of its history. He said of particular concern was the drought which ravaged the continent, with all its attendant problems such as famine, malnutrition and homelessness. He noted that because of the severity of the unprecedented drought, it was encumbent upon all of us to carefully assess the experience and see what lessons could be drawn from it. He noted that the drought demonstrated very clearly the unpreparedness of many affected member States for dealing with such calamities even though they were recurrent in some parts of the African continent. It had revealed the fragility of our organizational and physical infrastructure.

8. He observed that it was not surprising that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity emphasized in their Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) the need for a scenario of development based on the rural sector, when it is considered that 80 per cent of the population of most African countries do, and will for some time continue to, live in rural areas. Natural resources, raw materials and agricultural potential as yet unexploited were to be found in abundance in rural Africa. It was obvious that development should spring from such natural endowments and population resources.

9. He observed that four years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations had designated 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless; this theme, he said, is very close to our hearts since we, in Africa, have to live with the problem of shelter for the homeless daily. He extended gratitude to UNCHS (Habitat) and the many donor countries who were implementing shelter projects to alleviate the plight of the homeless in developing countries.

10. On the role of human settlements in the development process, he observed that problems exist because of the disparities between primary cities, towns and villages as shown by the pattern of scattered human settlements characteristic of the African rural hinterland. He therefore suggested that a deliberate programme aimed at promoting networks of rural townships should be conceived to divert the flow of migrants to large cities and to reduce the cost of infrastructure for rural transformation. To remove the spatial imbalances therefore there is need for massive investment in social infrastructure and services with a view to reducing overdependence on industrialized countries.

11. He stated that the ECA secretariat was focusing its effort on giving Africans the means to provide themselves with adequate shelter. Accordingly, the secretariat has prepared a regional project proposal on the development of indigenous building material industries in Africa for consideration by UNDP under its fourth cycle regional programming. For some years, ECA had concentrated on various aspects of the building materials sector particularly on institutional framework, promoting research activities and generally sensitizing member Governments to the need for production of local building materials as a means of accelerating housing programmes for the poor and the needy.

12. He pointed out that because of the severe physical damage caused by the last prolonged drought and its devastating effects on the social and economic conditions of more than two-thirds of the African countries, member States were compelled to adopt, with the assistance of ECA and OAU, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), 1986-1990. Environmental components in APPER and in the related United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), 1986-1990, are based on the Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Impacts of Drought in Africa which resulted from the deliberations of the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa. The Priority Programme incorporates medium- to long-term measures to promote environmentally sound management of water, energy and soil resources for the rehabilitation of agriculture, and to promote self-sufficiency in food production in the continent. He hoped that the country reports prepared for the meeting would adequately reflect the various plans, policies and programmes adopted by Governments for combating desertification and the impact of drought within the context of Africa's Priority Programme and the United Nations Programme of Action.

13. Another outcome of the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa was the recommendation in ECA resolution 528 (XIX) and pursuant to decisions taken in resolution 540 (XX) of April 1985 to establish an advanced African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD). Since the last report on ACMAD, ECA and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with strong inter-agency support, have been looking into the technical facilities available and in use at five potential host countries for the Centre, and have been implementing a preparatory assistance phase of the project. In their capacity as advisers on environmental matters, the participants would be examining the draft constitution for the Centre, the host country agreement and technical criteria for determining the location of the Centre, the proposed structure and functions of the Centre, and, most crucial of all, the financial arrangements for the running of the Centre.

14. The Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) noted that the most significant trends affecting human settlements development in the last two decades were the rapid rate of urbanization and the rural decline and low productivity of agriculture. These and other issues relating to the planning, development and management of human settlements should, he said, constitute a vital part of the agenda for African economic and social recovery.

15. He said that given the scale of the urban challenge and the limited public financial and institutional resources, community participation and private sector involvement should be encouraged in human settlements development and service delivery. He called attention to the UNCHS and DANIDA collaboration in the field of public/community participation and training. He stated that 45 per cent of habitat's ongoing projects were in the Africa region and that as at the beginning of 1987, UNCHS (Habitat) was in the process of implementing 72 human settlements projects in African countries and there were 57 other projects in the pipeline.

16. He called for an integrated approach to regional planning and for the high level development of secondary urban centres as tools for stimulating rural development. On the question of building materials and construction industry, he suggested the removal of the constraints on it in order to stimulate the economic development of the continent. He suggested several policy shifts to achieve this objective, as well as including approved use of local materials and labour, revision of building codes and standards, removing of institutional constraints on the private building sector and promotion of the informal sector, etc. He outlined with specific examples the way in which UNCHS (Habitat) had assisted African countries in some of those tasks and informed participants that UNCHS (Habitat) and ECA were consulting on the implementation of a regional project to assist African countries in the development and production of indigenous building materials to meet the immediate needs of low-cost shelter and infrastructure construction. He took the opportunity to announce a workshop on the formulation of standards and specifications for local building materials which is scheduled to take place in Nairobi from 16 to 20 March 1987.

17. He reminded the participants that 1987 was the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) and that UNCHS (Habitat) was the secretariat and lead agency. He pointed out that in Africa, 45 countries had designated national focal points for co-ordinating their national IYSH programmes and that 120 projects had been designated as IYSH demonstration projects in those countries. He also outlined the role of UNCHS (Habitat) in human settlements training activities and in those of the national liberation movements in Africa, especially populations oppressed by the apartheid regime.

18. In conclusion, he emphasized that in order to enhance the opportunities for African economic and social recovery, it was extremely important that human settlements policies and strategies and physical planning should be integrated into national development planning, and that local small-scale construction industries and increased investments in human resources development should be promoted.

19. The representative of the Executive Director of UNEP stressed the fact that the nature and causes of the African crisis had been discussed and analysed at length in many forums and few would disagree that what was now mostly required was action rather than words; effective problem-solving must be based on sound diagnostic approaches. Even as remedies were being applied, the search for causes must continue, using increasingly refined and sophisticated tools and approaches.

20. He said that UNEP, as the world body charged with the protection and care of the global environment, was particularly anxious that due attention should be given to the environmental dimensions of the African problem. Undoubtedly, many external factors, such as world economic and political forces, trade imbalances, unpredictable changes in consumption habits as well as the vagaries of climate and weather, had all been at play. However, the factors which really struck at the root of the problem were environmental in nature and largely internal in origin. Looking at the situation closely and objectively, UNEP was of the view that Africa was moving towards environmental bankruptcy. As a result of mismanagement, indifference and misguided economic and social policies, Africa's once rich natural resource base and natural ecosystems had been overtaxed and over-exploited to the point where valuable life-support systems that had been built up over many centuries had now been seriously damaged.

21. In large parts of Africa, the removal of the natural vegetation cover by man and livestock lead to rapid impoverishment of the soil. The last 100 years had seen a 150 kilometre-wide belt on the southern edge of the Saharan zone turn into non-productive desert, due to the destruction of the fertility of its soil.

22. He pointed out that the first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Cairo in December 1985 under the sponsorship of UNEP in collaboration with OAU and ECA focused on those problems; the Conference had adopted a programme of action aimed at mobilizing the scientific and technical resources available in Africa to give support to the sustainable development of natural resources and to the protection of the environment in all the countries of the continent, with the basic priority objective of achieving self-sufficiency in food and energy and local involvement in the planning and execution of development programmes. The low level of participation by the local communities had caused such activities to fail.

23. He concluded UNEP, in co-operation with ECA and OAU, was assisting in running the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, which would make a valuable contribution to APPER and to the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, adopted by the General Assembly earlier last year.

24. The Managing Director of Shelter-Afrique drew attention to the high urban population growth rate in Africa and the demands that this phenomenon made on housing and other human settlements aspects. He said this was the focus of attention of his organization and that Shelter-Afrique was the answer to the continent's housing problems. This, he said, meant that Shelter-Afrique, with a current membership of 24 African countries, should have capacities for enhancing the mobilization of domestic resources, providing funds, technical services and advice on low-cost construction as well as exploring other avenues of favourable external financing for viable and appropriate housing construction projects including those for the poor. He lamented the low priority given to human settlements development in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. He furthermore assured participants that Shelter-Afrique possessed the will and the determination to assist African countries in their strive towards socio-economic development, particularly in the shelter sector.

25. He then called on those African countries who were not yet members of Shelter-Afrique to assist in Shelter-Afrique's efforts by acceding to and taxing equity subscription in the organization. He hoped that by the time of the next meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment Shelter-Afrique's paid-up membership would have included all member countries of ECA or OAU.

26. He outlined his organization's collaborative efforts with other organizations including UNCHS (Habitat), the African Development Bank (ADB), ECA, UNDP, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank. He indicated that Shelter-Afrique was working on a programme for setting up new financial institutions and to strengthen those already in existance. A proposal had already been made to a member Government to establish jointly with Shelter-Afrique and a private bank a housing financing institution that would respond positively to this objective. Shelter-Afrique was also focusing its attention on and supporting the promotion of a viable building materials industry in Africa, with a current study involving six countries in the continent.

Election of officers (agenda item 2)

27. The following officers were elected to the bureau:

Chairman	Hon. Herve Duval, Minister of housing, Lands and Environment, Mauritius
First Vice-Chairman	Hon. Guy Nzouba-Ndama, Minister of habitat and housing, Gabon
Second Vice-Chairman	Hon. Dr. P.Y. Ngwandu, Minister of Lands, Water, Housing and Urban Development, United Republic of Tanzania
Third Vice-Chairman	Mr. El-Kady Medhat, Second Secretary. Egyptian Embassy, Addis Ababa
Rapporteur	Mr. Emmanuel Ofopi-Anyinam, Special Assistant to the Minister, Ghana

B. Agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 3)

28. The Joint Committee adopted the following agenda as contained in document E/ECA/IGRC/HS/ENV/87/IV/INF.1 with an amendment in item 7 on environmental matters:

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Plenary session I: Presentation of working documents on:

   (a) Human settlements matters;

   (b) Environmental matters.

5. Plenary session II: Presentation of country reports on the national state of human settlements and on the environment.

6. Working group A on human settlements matters:

   (a) progress report on human settlements activities since the last meeting (E/ECA/HUS/22);

   (b) integrating human settlements policies and programmes into national socio-economic development planning: framework and methodologies (E/ECA/HUS/24);

(c) an integrated approach to the evaluation of building construction needs of the African region (E/ECA/HUS/26);

(d) programmes for promoting institutionalized public participation systems in human settlements (E/ECA/HUS/25);

(e) programmes for establishing or strengthening training facilities for human settlements personnel at all levels in Africa (E/ECA/HUS/23);

(f) human settlements work programme for the 1988-1989 biennium.

7. Working group B on environmental matters:

(a) progress report on the environment in Africa programme 1986-1987, activities since the last meeting, including consideration of the environment in Africa work programme for the 1988-1989 biennium (E/ECA/ENV/35);

(b) progress report on the development of environmental capabilities to combat desertification and the impact of drought in the African region (E/ECA/ENV/31);

(c) prevention of encroachment on arable land in Africa (E/ECA/ENV/24/Rev.1);

(d) developing national environmental standards in Africa (E/ECA/ENV/17);

(e) development of environmental training for technicians on marine pollution, coastal erosion and depletion of marine resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) (E/ECA/ENV/22);

(f) Cairo Ministerial Conference and progress report on ECA resolution 578 (XXI) (E/ECA/ENV/33);

(g) report of ECA/WMO inter-agency expert consultations on establishing an African centre of meteorological applications for development (ACMAD), Bujumbura, 8-10 October 1986 (E/ECA/ENV/34);

(h) Study of the impact on the marine and inland environment brought about by the exploitation of marine resources, namely sand, corals and trachyte.

8. Plenary session III: Presentation of recommendations by the working groups.

9. Any other business.

10. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

C. Account of proceedings

Plenary session I: Presentation of working documents (agenda item 4)

(a) Human settlements

29. The representative of ECA introduced document E/ECA/HUS/22 which gave an overview of the main activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Commission from August 1985 to January 1987 in the field of human settlements. These activities are as follows:

(a) Study on mechanisms for integrating human settlements programmes in the socio-economic development process, study on the development of training facilities for human settlements personnel;

(b) Study on an integrated approach to the evaluation of building construction needs in the African region;

(c) Study on means of establishing programmes for institutionalizing popular participation in housing for low-income groups;

(d) Study on institutional mechanisms for the formulation and implementation of human settlements policies in Africa;

(e) Activities for the promotion of research on building and building materials had been undetaken;

(f) Organization of an expert group meeting on human settlements planning and its integration in socio-economic development planning; and

(g) Workshop and study tour on human settlements planning organized in co-operation with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with experts from 24 African countries.

30. In addition to substantive activities programmed for 1986-1987, the secretariat has contributed to the work of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The revised document incorporating comments of the Joint Committee will be presented to the tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements scheduled for April 1987 in Nairobi.

31. In pursuance of the recommendations of the third meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee, ECA has maintained contact with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). A co-operation agreement between the two organizations is being finalized and their respective work programmes will be harmonized.

32. ECA participated actively in the preparations and the deliberations of the Regional Seminar on Squatter Settlements and Low-cost Housing organized jointly with UNESCO, the Experimental Centre for Research and Study for Building and Public Works (CEBTP) in Paris and the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of Socialist Ethiopia, from 18 to 21 November 1985 in Addis Ababa.

33. At the request of Environment and Development in the third world (ENDA) and the United Nations University (UNU), ECA participated in the organization of a seminar on food and energy for the urban deprived population in Africa from 9 to 13 December 1985 in Addis Ababa.

34. At the invitation of the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), the International Savings Bank Institute (ISBI) of Geneva and the German Savings Banks and Giro Association (DSGB), ECA participated in a seminar organized in West Berlin, the Federal Republic of Germany, from 15 to 23 January 1986 to which 1 African countries had been invited. African countries were mostly represented by directors of their national banks. The main topic of the seminar was financing housing for low-income earners in Africa.

35. ECA also maintained contact with several organizations including FAO, IL and the International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Material and Structures (RILEM) with a view to undertaking joint activities.

36. The problems encountered in implementing those activities are that th contribution of human settlements to overall development is rarely appreciate to its full extent. Hence, the resources allocated to the human settlement programme are not commensurate with its pivotal role in the overall developmen plan. In view of the budgetary constraints confronting the United Nations systen the operational budget of the Human Settlements Section has been severely reduced Consequently, it was not possible to render advisory services to member State and mobilize extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the human settlement programme.

(b) Environment

37. Under agenda item 4(b), the representative of ECA presented the seven worki documents on environmental matters at the plenary session starting with documen E/ECA/ENV/35 entitled "Progress report on the 1986-1987 environment in Afri programme activities since the third meeting (of the Joint Committee in July 1985 including consideration of the work programme for the 1988-1989 biennium". T rest of the documents are mentioned in subsequent paragraphs. He stated that t progress report was in three parts dealing with first, the implementation resolutions arising from the recommendations made at the third meeting of the Joi Committee; secondly, a survey of the environmental matters being considered this fourth meeting; and lastly, briefings on future work programme activiti for the next biennium.

38. As a result of the discussion of the report of the third meeting of the Joi Committee (document E/ECA/CM.12/9) at the twelfth meeting of the ECA Conferen of Ministers in Yaounde in April 1986, two ECA resolutions were adopted, name resolution 585 (XXI) on the "Establishment of an African Centre of Meteorologic Applications for Development (ACMAD)" and 578 (XXI) on "Development of environment capabilities in Africa". This latter resolution 578 (XXI) consists of three part reflecting the environmental topics discussed at the third meeting, namely p one: Development of national environmental standards for the protection of African environment, as an ECA joint activity with the African Regional Organizat for Standardization (ARSO); part two: Implementation of conventions and protoc on the environment, as another ECA joint activity with OAU; and part thr Institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environm (AMCEN).

39. The representative of ECA then pointed out that the agenda as adopted for this fourth meeting would continue to deal with both the ACMAD topic on the establishment of the Centre (document E/ECA/ENV/34) and on the activities of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), in document E/ECA/ENV/33. Also a technical publication (E/ECA/ENV/17) (for information only) had been provided on "Developing national environmental standards in Africa" to provide guidelines to member States involved in developing physical environmental standards as well as social standards as codes of conduct to halt environmental degradation caused by deforestation and soil erosion, drought and desertification, human waste disposal and industrial pollution. He further pointed out that besides the recurrent and severe problems of the impact of drought and desertification in Africa, two new areas of environmental concern were the prevention of encroachment on arable lands in Africa, as indicated in document E/ECA/ENV/24/Rev.1, and the development of environmental training for specialists in marine pollution, coastal erosion and depletion of marine resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) (document E/ECA/ENV/32).

40. Regarding environmental training, the representative of ECA pointed out that the secretariat had been involved in joint project activities with UNEP on the "Incorporation of environmental components into the training programmes of 11 ECA-sponsored subregional and regional institutions" under project FP/3102-84-02(2367). This report indicated that ECA had undertaken two preliminary joint activities, namely an ECA/UNEP/ADB trainers workshop at the African Development Bank in Abidjan in November 1985 and a similar ECA/UNEP/ESAMI workshop at UNEP, Nairobi in December 1986. The two workshops brought lecturers together for 10 days each to develop an "Interdisciplinary environmental core curriculum" for:

(a) Environmental management and development;

(b) Environmental assessment and standardization;

(c) Drought and desertification control;

(d) Environmental health and sanitation; and

(e) Environmental aspects of population trends and resources use.

The core curriculum will be published shortly by UNEP for use by the ECA-sponsored institutions which train up to 2,500 government planners, business managers, technicians, administrators, bankers and so on, every year. Finally, the report called for comments from the experts of the Joint Committee on the proposed environment in Africa work programme for 1988-1989, as submitted in document E/ECA/ENV/34.

41. The representative of the secretariat observed that document E/ECA/ENV/31 on the Development of environmental capabilities to combat desertification and the impact of drought in Africa, under agenda item 7(b), was the central theme of the environmental activities yet to be discussed at this Joint Committee meeting. The impact of drought and the process of desertification that have aggravated the economy of about two-thirds of the African countries for the last two decades, are contributing factors to the current African economic and social crisis. Hence, they form the focal points for the environmental aspects of Africa's Priority

Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and its related United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990. The environmental issues examined in the other documents being presented, such as the impact of urban encroachment and soil degradation on arable land use, the role of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), the need for promoting manpower development in environmental training, and the activities involved in the Cairo Programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), are all supporting efforts towards combating the impact of drought and desertification within the context of APPER.

42. The representative of ECA emphasized that the subregional approach in the development of environmental capabilities to combat desertification and the impact of drought in the region had been adopted. National activities of selected countries and of subregional intergovernmental organizations such as the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), the Inter-State Committee for the Fight Against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Intergovernmental Group against Drought and Desertification, within each of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) involved, based at Tangier, Niamey and Lusaka, had been examined. Also the efforts of the United Nations (UNEP, UNSO, FAO, WMO, UNESCO) and the Organization of African Unity were presented briefly, including the future plans of ECA in combating desertification and the impact of drought. He then appealed to the participants to update or to submit a summary of their country programmes in this area vis-à-vis the implementation of APPER and the United Nations Programme of Action.

43. On agenda item 7(c), the representative of ECA presented document E/ECA/ENV/24/Rev.1 entitled "Prevention of encroachment on arable lands in Africa". This was the result of inter-agency consultations on the problem with UNEP, UNESCO and FAO, as well as from discussions with African experts on the subject on their country experiences during an ad hoc expert group meeting held in September 1985. He said that the land-use situation in Africa had been examined from the viewpoint of agricultural practices that maintain the ecological balance and promote soil regeneration as against those farming practices that lead to soil degradation through erosion and the loss of arable land. Another aspect of the problem examined in the report was the actual encroachment on arable lands situated around cities, towns and villages, by the rapid processes of urbanization and rural-urban population migration. The urbanization process (the construction of dwellings, transportation and communications infrastructure, industrial development activities, airports, recreation and tourist facilities) had been a serious constraint on the availability of arable land and use in Africa as the population growth rate and that of the main cities and towns escalated above world averages.

44. The representative of ECA told the Joint Committee that the problem was most serious in small African countries with high population density (Burundi, Rwanda, the Indian Ocean islands) as well as in drought-prone African countries with over 70 per cent arid lands, such as the North African countries, Mauritania, Mali, the Niger, Chad and the Sudan around the Sahara desert, Somalia in the Chalbi desert and Botswana in the Kalahari desert areas. He stated that the report also reviewed the ongoing activities of the main United Nations bodies investigating the problem. He concluded by urging member States to examine the problem as indicated by the country reports from Nigeria, the Sudan and Côte d'Ivoire and then make recommendations on land-use planning, national soils and land-use policies, as well as the conservation of natural resources and water resources management.

45. The representative of ECA then presented document E/ECA/ENV/32 under agenda item 7(e) entitled "Development of environmental training for technicians on marine pollution, coastal erosion and depletion of marine resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)". He said that ECA co-operates mainly with UNEP, the Intergovernmental Maritime Organization (IMCO) and UNESCO to implement United Nations programmes to assist African countries in the protection of their marine environment, particularly in the following areas:

(a) The UNEP Regional Seas and Coastal Areas Programmes, namely the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Gulf, the West and Central African, and the East African programmes that cover the African continent;

(b) UNESCO/ECA co-operation on the development of marine science and technology in Africa; and

(c) ECA projects relating to the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

He noted that within this context, the ECA document was stressing the need for middle-level technicians training to monitor various kinds of marine pollution that could destroy or reduce the potential marine resources such as shellfish and fish stock in the EEZ which should be rationally exploited for economic development.

46. The representative of ECA also pointed out that the above document examined the three problems relating to the development and protection of the African marine environment, namely marine pollution; coastal erosion; and the depletion of living resources. He said that emphasis was put on the sources of marine pollutants, namely sewage discharge, domestic, industrial and agricultural chemicals waste discharges through river run-offs, mining activities, oil and dangerous chemical pollution from ships at sea and radio-active nuclear discharges. He noted that coastal erosion was causing untold damage to seaside towns and villages in Africa. He concluded by requesting the participants to examine the problems of training marine technicians in Africa, and the need for developing national environmental pollution control policies. The participants were furthermore requested to update the information on marine institutions as listed in the annex to the report.

47. Under agenda item 7(f) entitled "Implementation of ECA resolution 578 (XXI) on the Cairo Programme of Action of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)", the representative of ECA said that the progress report in document E/ECA/ENV/33 brought to the attention of the meeting the activities of the joint secretariat of the Conference, consisting of UNEP, ECA and OAU. Since ECA had endorsed the institutionalization of the AMCEN to meet every year, the document was reporting on ECA activities at the first Inter-Agency Working Group meeting in July 1986 and at the Conference secretariat for implementing the Cairo Programme of Action. Furthermore, the document brought to the attention of the meeting the deliberations of the first bureau meeting of the AMCEN Conference, held in October 1986, at which it was reported that the four Conference committees on deserts and arid lands, on forests and woodlands, on rivers and lake basins, and on seas respectively, were holding their first meetings to prepare draft terms

of reference on their structure, work programme and financial requirements. Also, five of the eight technical co-operation networks were being established with the regional co-ordinating units (RCUs) located at selected African host countries, namely the RCU for soils and fertilizers at the Soil Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Kumasi, Ghana; the RCU for energy at the Centre for the Study and Research on Renewable Sources of Energy in Dakar; and the RCU for water at the Water Resources Institute in Cairo. The RCU for environmental monitoring was located at the Global Environmental Monitoring (GEMS) Unit at UNEP, Nairobi, while that on climatology is being temporarily located at the World Meteorological Organization Regional Office for Africa at Bujumbura, Burundi, until a host country for ACMAD is located. He concluded by requesting the participants to make recommendations on the modalities for this Joint Committee to serve as an advisory group of African experts to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment whose legal status was being studied.

48. On agenda item 7(g) entitled "Report of the ECA/WMO Inter-Agency Consultations on establishing an African Centre of Meterorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)" (document E/ECA/ENV/34), the representative of ECA stated that the Bujumbura expert group meeting was held in response to ECA resolution 585 (XXI) to prepare a draft constitution for the Centre, which is attached as an annex to the report. In addition to the draft constitution, the Bujumbura expert group deliberated on related matters such as the host country agreement, revised criteria for the location of the Centre and its financing by member States and donors.

49. Furthermore, the representative of ECA pointed out that ECA resolution 585 (XXI) requested a report on the implementation of the preparatory assistance phase on the project on ACMAD which was funded by UNDP this year as RAF/86/026. Two WMO consultants who were at the expert group meeting provided technical details for a full-scale project on ACMAD. Hence, the report dealt with the objectives of the Centre and the main functional areas proposed for ACMAD, namely:

(a) Applications development;

(b) Meteorological/climatological watch operations;

(c) Numerical analysis and prediction development; and

(d) Informatics and satellite meteorology technology support.

The WMO consultants also provided details on the organizational structure, the work programme, the staff requirements for professionals and technicians, and the materials, equipment and financial requirements for running ACMAD during its first five-year development phase. He concluded by requesting the Joint Committee to study the details involved in the implementation of resolution 585 (XXI) on the establishment of the Centre and to make tangible recommendations to the thirteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1987.

Plenary session for the presentation of country reports (agenda item 5)

50. On human settlements development, the representative of Ghana stated that the housing problem was one of the country's developmental crisis, with an accumulated current housing deficit of 250,000 units. Ghana required an average annual housing units of 133,000 to give shelter to the homeless within the next 20 years. The deficit was attributed to former governments policy of trying to tackle the shelter problem by direct construction of housing with public funds, which is too limited to make a dent on the problem.

51. He noted that the private sector accounted for over 80 per cent of all the housing output. Recognizing this, the present Government had initiated shifts in policies aiming at encouraging more private sector involvement. Such as encouraging sites and services schemes instead of building complete houses for the poor, encouragement of the informal sector, modification of codes and regulations, development and use of local building materials and other institutional reforms. Ghana had planned an annual housing unit production of between 20,000 and 40,000 units between 1987 and 2000. The total output of 115,000 over this period was expected to be made up of 2 per cent public sector contribution and 98 per cent private sector contribution.

52. Other policy shifts to encourage shelter production were the decentralization of the former 68 districts into 130 districts, a liberalized national investment code, reform of inheritance and marriage laws and enactment of rent control laws.

53. The Government had embarked upon a number of urban development projects to encourage the upgrading of slum settlements. One such project was the Mima-Naamobi infrastructural upgrading project. It was also being used as a demonstration project for the IYSH. Burnt and laterite brick projects had also been set up to reduce dependence on cement. A model village was being built with burnt and laterite bricks produced on the project site. He concluded by stating that his Government would welcome any assistance from the international community in its attempt to improve shelter and neighbourhood conditions for the poor by the year 2000.

54. On environmental managment, the representative of Ghana pointed out that the main environmental problems facing his country were coastal erosion, waste disposal, air and water pollution, general land degradation, bushfires, desertification as well as water-borne and water-related diseases. In response to these problems, he informed the meeting that his Government, through its Environmental Protection Council (EPC) was carrying out a number of environmental protection activities. These included marine and coastal protection under the framework of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of West and Central Africa Region (MACAF 2 and 3). He indicated that his Government was making all efforts to alleviate the problems related to land degradation and had received some assistance from international organizations like UNESCO through the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme, UNEP and UNSO as well as bilateral agencies like the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). These areas include studies on the effects of humar impacts of the savannah ecosystems of the country, bushfire, drought and desertification control, environmental education programmes including rural consultation and air quality and pollution control programmes.

55. Within the context of planned programme activities, his Government would need external assistance to back up national efforts in the areas of drought and desertification control within the framework of UNSO activities, the development of an environmental information and resources centre, rural outreach programmes and a pilot bushfire control, project.

56. In conclusion, he stated that his Government was prepared to co-operate with its neighbours to develop joint programmes in all areas of environmental development.

57. The leader of the Zambian delegation, the Minister of State for Decentralization, stated that Zambia's human settlements problems were serious with an annual growth rate of 3.1 per cent. It was expected that the population wuld reach the 12 million mark by the year 2000. This would demand an additional 1.5 million housing units to the existing housing stock.

58. On the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, Zambia had designated a focal point for the programme and had set up a national steering committee to co-ordinate the activities of the Year at national, provincial and district levels. The Government had also identified several major IYSH projects being implemented through both national and bilateral efforts with donor agencies and other friendly governments. Some of these projects included (a) the Lusaka Squatter Upgrading and Site and Service Housing Project, in collaboration with the World Bank, (b) the Kalingalinga Integrated Upgrading Project, with the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Agency for Technical Assistance (GTZ), (c) site and service schemes in various rural centres, all supported by the European Development Fund (EDF). Extensions of this scheme to 14 other towns had been planned. These projects involved several thousands of serviced plots and housing units.

59. The Zambian Government was co-operating in the Kamanga Demonstration Project with UNCHS (Habitat) under the aegis of the IYSH programme as well as DANIDA/UNCHS in a training programme for community participation in the improvement of human settlements. Other co-operative projects included a research programme on built-up environment, financed by the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA) and a low-cost sanitation demonstration project. The Minister referred participants to the resolutions adopted by the 1985 Convention of Zambia's Ruling Party on Housing, which called for a simplified housing land delivery process, modification of housing standards to reflect income levels of citizens and the need for improved credit facilities to cater for the low-income group.

60. The representative of Zambia announced that a national Workshop on Shelter Strategies and Programmes was scheduled for early this year (1987) in the context of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and that this would mark the official culmination of the activities of the Year and Zambia's commitment to the objectives of the programme for effective implementation by its own efforts and the assistance of friendly countries. In conclusion, the Minister appealed for assistance in establishing a national housing bank in Zambia, which would charge low interest rates to low-income borrowers.

61. The representative further informed the meeting that since the last meeting of the Committee, a national conservation strategy for Zambia had been prepared with the help of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The document was approved and adopted by the Government in July 1985. The strategy was a comprehensive approach to combating environmental problems that affect Zambia's development such as deforestation, drought, soil erosion, pollution and poaching. It stressed ways of making better use of Zambia's natural resources. It outlined conservation activities which must begin in many sectors, namely agriculture, forestry, urban development, wildlife, tourism energy, mining, industry and water use and it defines some basic measures needed in order to achieve conservation.

62. With respect to the national conservation committee, the representative of Zambia outlined some activities being carried out with the support of a secretariat set up within the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, as follows:

(a) Afforestation: In spite of the existing regulations, deforestation, due to charcoal production and shifting cultivation, was a major environmental problem. However, in addition to the current afforestation programme under which 52,000 ha has been planted, the committee had initiated a tree planting project to supply fuelwood to major urban areas, and it planned to introduce improved fuel-efficient charcoal stoves soon;

(b) Drought, over-grazing and soil erosion: Again, in spite of the generally sub-humid climate, Zambia had experienced drought since 1980, especially in the southern half of the country which had been badly affected by the prolonged drought. As a result, crop production had in some areas dropped by about 50 per cent with chronic water shortages in some places, and worsening of overgrazing and soil erosion problems due to lack of soil conservation in the dry lands. To combat these environmental problems, a number of dams had been constructed in the areas badly affected by drought since 1982 and the national conservation committee had carried out research on soil conservation measures which enabled Zambia to produce a draft soil conservation strategy with the support of the IUCN.

63. The representative of Gabon said that the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment which was of a particular importance coincided with the celebration of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the forthcoming meeting of the Second Conference of African Ministers of the Environment. However, African Governments were becoming increasingly aware that African solutions based on African experience and efforts should be used to solve Africa's problems.

64. Because of the inbalance in the distribution of population in the rural areas, the deterioration in human settlements standards and the overcrowding of towns went hand-in-hand with a deterioration in the environment which was a constant concern of Governments.

65. The fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment offered the best opportunity for African Governments not only to pool their knowledge but also to share their experiences and to recommend concerted efforts for the implementation of joint national and regional programmes.

66. The attention accorded by his country to the development of towns and to the housing situation had led to the drafting of a national housing plan which was a basic policy instrument.

67. The acute shortage of developed land and housing had led in almost all the towns to a very striking contrast between more-developed and equiped city centres and suburbs where rural folk settled without any reference whatsoever to development plans or registers. In view of that situaiton, the Gabonese Government had no choice but to take firm action. Thus, the National Institute of Cartography had provided most of the main towns with useable maps and urbanization studies had been undertaken in a number of towns; land had been developed in order to restructure the insanitary areas and control the land situation.

68. The national policy of self-help construction was addressed to the poorest families, i.e., those with monthly income ranging from 40,000 to 120,000 CFA francs.

69. The policy had two objectives. The first consisted in requesting community participation so as to have an impact on a greater number of needy people. This objective was to support the efforts and investments made by the poorest people by supplying them with developed plots; cheap building materials and technical assistance and giving them access to loans commensurate with their construction costs and financial standing while the second was to provide the very poor with the basic usable structures, leaving them to complete the works on the dwellings.

70. The Government was trying to implement a multiannual social housing policy using financing channels adapted to that specific problem and which would supplement the resources of the National Housing Fund (F.N.H.).

71. With the aim of reducing building costs even further, research focusing particularly on the utilization of local materials had been undertaken in 1985 and had led, in 1986, to the purchase by the Ministry of Housing and Town Planning of a machine for manufacturing blocks of soil mixed with a small percentage of cement. It had a production capacity of between 2,000 to 3,000 bricks a day and could be moved from one site to another. It made it possible to save about 17 per cent on the overall costs of housing units.

72. With respect to environment, a sketch of a national plan of action on the environment was under study and should produce a series of specific objectives and areas of intervention for Government action on the environment, specify the various areas of intervention as well as the main resources required.

73. Several major ongoing industrial and agricultural projects had required the services of the department of the environment and wildlife protection. Thus, the Centre national antipollution which had a logistics unit, had carried out several impact studies mainly on breweries and certain public works and buildings.

74. A large-scale project to provide Gabon with a national pollution map had been undertaken in 1984. The project which comprised two programmes of activities, was aimed particularly at:

(a) Carrying out an inventory of polluted areas in Gabon - carrying out a field inspection of the main industrial areas of the country to locate the polluted areas;

(b) Assessing the extent of pollution by using laboratory equipment to measure the pollution of the areas identified.

75. These activities would make it possible to establish a national pollution map which would demarcate the sensitive areas in the country.

76. Despite the adoption of a number of laws, particularly, the one on industrial pollution control which made it mandatory to carry out an environmental impact study prior to the developments and implementation of any project and the law on the elimination of solid wastes and the reduction of public pollution, Gabon still did not have a coherent body of laws and regulations well suited to the specific requirements of protecting the environment and the quality of life. Thus, a proposed law on the environment reflecting local conditions was being prepared with the assistance of UNEP.

77. The representative of Malawi said that his country being small, hilly and overpopulated one had a land-use problem. The size of Malawi was 118,484 square kilometres and its population was 6.7 million with a density of 55.92 per square kilometre. The population was basically rural and engaged in crop production. There was an apparent conflict between agriculture and environmental protection. In certain parts of the country, the main problem was land degradation caused by soil erosion resulting from severe land pressure. There was very little land for the increasing human and livestock populations since most areas were steep, and others non-arable. The high soil erosion in these areas was causing damage to roads and bridges along the lake shore and valley areas. Crop yields in the affected areas were falling too and the people in these areas who depended mainly on agriculture were likely to suffer considerably if this trend was not reversed. The intensive cultivation of the low-yield areas could not continue for more than two years without soil conservation measures. Therefore, there was urgent need to rehabilitate and improve such areas by intensifying conservation activities.

78. The other apparent problem was between crop production or agriculture and wildlife development. This was purely a land-use problem. As land became intensively farmed or urbanized, wildlife became increasingly exposed to the "edge-effect". The agricultural land adjacent to protected areas became a tension zone as the two forms of land use interacted, leading to crop damage, human deaths and poaching. The Government had therefore selected the following three ecological principles of special relevance:

(a) The need to keep a range of resources available to future generations;

(b) A policy of more intensive agricultural and pastoral development of high-yield lands with assured productivity than attempts to develop marginal areas, and

(c) The need to realize that the conservation of the species and natural communities was an integral part of development.

79. Although Malawi was not actually threatened by desertification, deforestation which was a step towards desertification had reached alarming proportions. This process had dire consequences on the social and economic well-being of the human population. It was causing environmental degradation and the decline of agricultural productivity. The destruction of wildlife and fish habitats, the destruction of physical infrastructure such as roads, hydro-electric installations and water pumps through flooding siltation. The most noticeable of these effects was the increasingly short supply of fuel wood required for day-to-day domestic use and for industry. With the assistance of the World Bank and the co-operation of the population, a national tree-planting programme might in the foreseeable future halt the environmental calamity of deforestation and thereby restore Malawi's green environment.

80. The National Committee for the Environment, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources was an advisory extra-ministerial organ of the Government in charge of environmental policy, and also sensitized both the public and private sectors on the environmental consequences of development projects.

81. The representative of Cameroon said that the Ministry of Town Planning and Housing launched a national housing plan in 1979. In addition, a number of relevant organizations were established to carry out specific functions in human settlements. These included:

(a) The urban and rural development and equipment authority (MAETUR) to plan and implement land planning and development activities and the promotion of housing in the country.

(b) Industrial zones development authority (MAZI) which develops and manages industrial land.

(c) The National housing corporation (SIC) to construct, buy and manage buildings for rent or for sale. As of 1986, it had constructed 6,000 housing units.

(d) The Cameroon national housing fund (CNC) for financing individual and national housing projects. The Fund contributed greatly to the development of the housing sector. It financed 70 per cent of the total work carried out by SIC and MAETUR. The Fund is supported by contributions from the Cameroon Government (70 per cent including one per cent taxed contribution of workers), the national social insurance fund (20 per cent), the postal savings fund (five per cent), the national reinsurance fund (five per cent).

82. The above organizations made a considerable contribution to the success of achieving the five-year development plan (1981-1986) inspite of economic, social and financial difficulties. The MAETUR developed more than 23,000 plots and the SIC built 9,260 units while the Housing Fund provided loans amounting to more than 110 billion CFA francs.

83. In the new sixth five-year development plan (1987 to 1991), the Government plans to review, increase and facilitate the activities of the human settlement organizations, and to carry out more intensive documentation and studies in town planning, land policy and housing.

84. The representative drew attention to the recent Lake Nyos gas disaster which claimed 1,746 lives and displaced close to 5,000 people. An International Conference had been planned for April 1987 to seek the causes of the disaster.

85. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania informed the committee of the experience acquired on questions relating to human settlements and environment.

86. Regarding intersectoral integration, the United Republic of Tanzania was in the process of formulating a national urban development policy which would guide the development of human settlements. A National Land-Use Commissionn had been established to co-ordinate land-use in an effort to minimize land-use conflicts.

87. The United Republic of Tanzania was fully supportive of the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Efforts were therefore being directed at expanding the national sites and services and squatter upgrading programmes. The Building Research Institute was being strengthened to enhance the dissemination of research findings. Building regulations had been reviewed to encourage the low-income earners to build affordable housing units, and training of personnel required in the field of human settlement development had been expanded. National housing financial operations were being reviewed to make them more responsive to the needs of the low-income earners.

88. In respect of construction activities, the representative reported that the United Republic of Tanzania had established a National Construction Council - a body to act as a focal point for co-ordinating all activities in the construction industry. Some of the priority programmes currently being undertaken by the council include:

(a) Action in favour of small-scale contractors through the provision of capital, plant and equipment as well as training in areas of project management;

(b) Encouraging local contractors capable of executing large projects through dynamic training programmes and advisory services to local firms and assistance in the execution of projects;

(c) Productivity studies with a view to establishing a schedule of rates for the construction industry;

(d) Establishment of a technical audit system to vet project designs for financial viability and appropriateness.

89. As recommended in the Lagos Plan of Action, the United Republic of Tanzania had been concerned with, inter-alia, the promotion of environmentally sound socio-economic development programmes. The formation of the national environment management council in 1986 was an endeavour to fulfil this objective.

90. In combating desertification, the United Republic of Tanzania had formulated afforestation programmes with technical support from UNEP.

91. The Council was at the moment preparing a register of potentially toxic chemicals.

92. The conservation of marine resources was another area where The United Republic of Tanzania had started implementing some aspects of the UNEP programmes for the Eastern African region. Furthermore, three villages had been selected for the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action.

93. The human settlement situation in Zimbabwe was characterized by:

(a) A huge housing backlog in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Very poor quality housing in commercial farming areas, mining settlements and in the communal lands;

(c) Unequitable distribution of quality agricultural land between tribal communal land and commercial farming areas with the former being on marginal land and being overcrowded and therefore overutilized, resulting in gradual degradation and deforestation.

94. These problems were a direct result of land and settlement policies of previous colonial régimes. To redress this situation, the Zimbabwe Government had since independence formulated specific human settlement and housing policy strategies and programmes, and had further established institutions for the implementation of these programmes.

95. The Government had undertaken the preparatory planning phase, involving the preparation of the national and regional development plans, i.e. the identification of growth points, rural service centres and the preparation of plans for each of these.

96. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements was assisting in this exercise which was carried out by the Physical Planning Department.

97. The Government had also completed the housing needs assessment study which had been utilized to prepare the housing and human settlement policy strategies and programmes to the year 2,000.

98. On the basis of the above, a number of projects had already been identified and some undertaken. In the urban areas, the National Housing Fund allocated annually substantial sums as loans to local authorities for the construction by building brigades of low cost housing. The Government together with a number of international donors and other funding agencies had undertaken a number of innovative low-cost housing schemes. USAID, World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and others, had been involved in low-cost housing development in several cities and towns.

99. The provision of services, i.e., water sewerage and roads, had been completed in more than 20 growth points and work was continuing on the remainder.

100. In January 1987, the Ministry of Public Construction and National Housing, commenced the construction of 20 low-cost houses in each growth point to give impetus to the policy of decentralization.

101. Through its rural housing programme which was part of a broader rural resettlement and development programme, the Government through the ministries of public construction and national housing, local government, urban and rural development and agriculture, lands and resettlement, was undertaking a massive rural low-cost housing construction in the following forms: Preparation of land use and settlement plans and extension of loans in the form of building materials and a resident artisan to assist and supervise about 100 houses with the villagers providing all the labour content; loans were repayable over 30 years. Settlers were drawn from the overcrowded tribal lands; these rural folk were also encouraged to improve their housing and move into villages where proper land use plans were provided for improved productivity and better resources use, and housing loans in the form of building materials for better housing.

102. To further encourage housing construction, the Government had undertaken a number of measures: It proclaimed the Home Ownership Policy; brought in the private sector to participate in low-cost housing, employer-assisted housing, persuaded building societies to make available credit facilities to low-income families and granted nine per cent tax-free paid-up permanent shares in building societies. Part of the funds mobilized were to be set aside for low-cost housing. The Government had also adopted a policy to integrate human settlement policies and programmes into the national socio-economic development plan.

103. The representative of Senegal stated that like most other developing countries, the urban structure in Senegal was characterized by a profound inbalance between Dakar and the rest of the urban system. In an attempt to correst that inbalance, the Government had embarked on a programme of planning and management of urban space that included operational plans for land development and rehabilitation in the various urban districts. In the absence of external financing, the programmes had to rely on scarce resources from the national budget while spontaneous urbanization had reached alarming proportions. At the same time land registration procedures were cumbersome.

104. The seventh economic and social development plan included regional strategies aimed at encouraging rural development and at reducing the inbalances between the urban and the rural areas. These included 21 priority programmes intended to improve the integration of human settlements policies and programmes into national socio-economic planning.

105. In view of the ever-increasing needs for housing and because of the limited possibilities of planned settlements, the Government had adopted a new strategy, encouraging self-help construction, the development of co-operatives and investment in real estate.

106. The launching of a project to provide the necessary infrastructure to building sites, the establishment of a housing bank and a modern housing development corporation were all part of the new policy.

107. UNDP would also provide assistance to housing co-operatives. At the same time, the Government was embarking on a vast rehabilitation programme in the unplanned areas so as to improve the living conditions of the population concerned. Moreover, the establishment of a computerized urban data bank would provide a better picture of urban land and housing requirements, making it possible to achieve rational programming for housing construction.

108. Efforts in research and dissemination of local construction materials would be continued. A current project for the standardization of technical norms for housing would be finalized.

109. The decision by the Africa Union of Architects (AUA) to establish AFRICABAT in Senegal was encouraging and the authorities were actively involved in the preparation of this important event and would spare no effort to making it a success.

110. With regard to training in the field of human settlements, the Government had established several training institutions intended to provide the necessary manpower at the various levels of the amdinistration. Six training institutions were now operational in Senegal.

111. Among the obstacles which impeded the attainment of the training objectives in Senegal were the following:

(a) Financial constraints;

(b) Problems with respect to the contents of the training programmes, in view of the multi-disciplinary nature of planning and management of human settlements;

(c) Difficulties due to the shortage and to the qualifications of local teachers;

(d) Problems in identifying training requirements consistent with the local conditions; and

(e) Difficulties with respect to the legal status of the training institutions (financial autonomy).

112. The representative of Senegal stated that the fourth meeting was being held at the right time and it provided an opportunity to the various delegations to evaluate their experience in the areas concerned. Senegal was happy to participate in the meeting and would take full advantage of all the information and recommendations that would emerge from the discussions.

113. The representative of Rwanda said that his Government was preparing a new five-year development plan based on a central theme, namely food self-sufficiency to be attained through subjacent sectoral strategies. A housing strategy was adopted and the environment policy was being finalized. The components of those strategies were to be integrated into the development plan. The salient points of the housing and human settlements policy were:

(a) Bringing about greater efficiency in land use by streamlining the consumption of space and consolidating facilities;

(b) Establishing a town and country planning policy;

(c) Increasing the supply of housing units by involving other land development operators;

(d) Developing appropriate land and institutional procedures;

(e) Strengthening the role and involvement of local communities in planning, regulation and management of human settlement;

(f) Organizing the funding of housing and systematically applying expenses of recovery procedures; and

(g) Fostering the production of building materials to help revive the Rwandese economy.

114. The Government was of the view that urban development should not be achieved at the expense of the rural sector and therefore popular participation would be institutionalized.

115. It was becoming increasingly urgent to adopt new approaches to human settlements since current policies such as housing units build by the public authority or authorized agencies and the financing of housing by the usual networks had failed to achieve the expected results.

116. The two main environmental problems that Rwanda was facing were the loss of arable land and deforestation. Rwanda was currently using popular participation to wage an anti-erosion and soil conservation and afforestation campaign. It was also carrying out other activities such as water supply schemes for rural households and the development of marshland to destroy malaria-breeding grounds in particular. The aim was to properly manage all aspects of the environment in the light of the country's development activities.

117. The representative of Kenya reported that since independence Kenya had recognized the importance of human settlements in the preparation of its national development plans. The last five national development plans had aimed at providing to the basic needs of the population namely, health, education water, decent dwellings and food. The biggest human settlement movement occurred immediately in the early years of independence when indigenous families were settled on the one million acres formerly reserved for white settlers. That resettlement had now been completed and in the last three development plans, Kenya had concentrated on providing housing to the ever-increasing urban population.

118. To co-ordinate all the activities connected with the provision of shelter, the Government had created the Ministry of Works, Housing and Physical Planning. This ministry was responsible for designing housing units for the Government and the supervision of their construction and maintenance.

119. Private individuals had been encouraged to build or buy houses. This had been done through owner-occupied schemes where long-term mortgage was made available at low interest rates. The availability of long-term mortgage had now been extended to include the building and purchase of permanent houses in the rural areas.

120. In the field of housing, the Government had adopted the policy of aided self-help schemes in order to stimulate vigorous community involvement and participation such as the Dandora Community development project within that framework which had generated self-help building activities and created a sound base for the provision of socio-economic community services and infrastructure.

121. The department of urban and regional planning of the University of Nairobi was the main training and research institution and plans were at hand to start training programmes for junior professionals at the Kenya Polytechnic.

122. As part of its activities for the IYHS, Kenya was undertaking a major project that aimed at producing a national housing policy and strategy incorporating a concrete plan of action for the period 1987 to the year 2000, through which the public and private sectors could produce a high volume of acceptable quality houses to meet the needs of the growing population.

123. Since the Stockholm Conference, Kenya had taken some concrete steps in the establishment of appropriate institutions to ensure an effective overall management of the environment. Among these institutions are:

(a) The National environment secretariat which co-ordinate all environmental programmes;

(b) The Permanent Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Reafforestation; and

(c) The Kenya Rangeland Environmental Monitoring Unit. Through the national environment secretariat, a state of environment report had been published, and the National conservation strategy was under preparation. The Secretariat had initiated an environment education programme for primary and secondary schools. A faculty of environment and wildlife studies had been established in Moi University and the Kenya Institute of Education was developing an environmental teaching curriculum for secondary schools.

124. With an annual population growth rate of four per cent, there was an apparent over-exploitation of arable land for the production of food and cash crops. The over-exploitation had led to serious soil degradation. Lack of arable land had forced some people to move into marginal lands unsuitable for crop farming, resulting in soil loss through wind erosion during the dry season. Experience had taught that no conservation measures could succeed in these critical areas unless there was an active participation by the people down to the village level.

125. Kenya supported the Cairo Plan of Action. Institutions and individuals had been identified to be the focal points for the four technical committees. Kenya had further identified three villages and one semi-arid stock raising zone to form the pilot projects within the Cairo Plan of Action.

126. Kenya was ready and willing to exchange experience and research findings in matters of environment with other countries and particularly those in the subregion. Kenya was looking forward to collaboration with Burundi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in the study and implementation of an integrated multi-purpose development plan for the Lake Victoria Basin in view of the importance of lake to the community within the basin. It was hoped that the study would rationalize the management of the resources of the Lake catchment area including reafforestation, soil conservation and pollution control.

127. The representative of Botswana reported that for some time now his country had been devising a range of policies and programmes to alleviate settlements and shelter-related poverty. These included:

(a) The preparation of the country's national settlement policy. This policy aimed at preparing a comprehensive national plan in which programmes were considered in respect of all settlements and resources; and

(b) The preparation of development plans for all planning areas under the Town and Country Planning Act to guide and control development in detail by means of building and development control codes. These codes determined urban and rural development standards which set guidelines for the quality of structures, and regulated efficient use and occupancy of space, the utilization of material, building services and public health.

128. Botswana was currently reviewing its building codes and regulations. The promotion and use of locally produced building materials as a means of enabling, to afford housing, low income households was also being pursued.

129. A self-help Housing Agency (SHHA) Scheme had been in operation for over ten years. It had been a complete success in the eradicating squatter settlements in Botswana's towns as a result of site upgrading programmes for low-income families. The scheme was now being reviewed to address some of the inherent problems such as cost recovery mechanisms.

130. On the environmental front, Botswana was increasingly focusing attention on the deterioration of the earth's renewable natural resource base as follows:

(a) The country's wildlife policy which was finalized in 1986 had had major achievements in conservation and development. Under the policy, 17 per cent of the country's territory had been reserved for wildlife preservation in national parks and game reserves while an additional 20 per cent of the country had been declared wildlife management zones. This gave a total of 37 per cent of the country's area reserved solely or partially for the conservation of wildlife;

(b) Initiatives under a project called Livestock III had incorporated local land-use planning for sustained use, range-land monitoring systems, increase of the abattoir capacity and increase in economic incentives to reduce herds by increasing off-take;

(c) The preparation of an integrated National conservation strategy (NCS) was scheduled for completion by the end of 1987. The primary purpose of the NCS was to help ensure Botswana's sustained development by tying together economic growth and replenishment of those renewable natural resources on which long-term economic growth will have to be based: and

(d) One other ongoing important national environmental project was the preparation of a national water master plan which had been necessitated by the mismatch between location of water resources and growth of population. Government was also actively involved in promoting initiatives by the non-governmental organizations in the country, such as the Forestry Association of Botswana and Thusano Lefatshing.

131. The approach in all the environmental programmes outlined above was that as much as conservation was necessary, it had to be done profitably and with people's full involvement by making them realize that their personal survival was dependent on sustained development.

132. The representative of Ethiopia stated that the Government had launched massive programmes of resettlement of people from the drought-stricken regions of the country into virgin lands of western and southern Ethiopia. Accordingly, as of July 1985, a total of 1.5 million people had been resettled in the newly opened regions.

133. Villagization, like its sister programme of agricultural resettlement, had had the rural population as its target. It had tried to bring economic and social development to the rural population who lived in a scattered fashion. The object of that policy was to bring together rural people into newly established villages so that they may be provided with various economic, social amenities and services. The villagization programme was basically a voluntary activity, self-financed as far as construction of housing units was concerned, with local governments' involvement only in the selection of cites for the new villages.

134. To date, 15 per cent of rural villages had been successfully relocated on new sites. It was expected that by the end of the current medium-term plan period, the figure would rise to 25 per cent. According to current statistical information, as of June 1986, some 5,367 peasant associations had been reported to have been villagized in eight out of the 14 administrative regions of the country. Thus, the number of newly-created villages had reached 20,624 with 1.6 million dwelling units giving shelter to some 893,000 farm family heads, or about four million rural inhabitants.

135. Urbanization was a relatively new phenomenon in Ethiopia. Out of a total population of nearly 43 million, only 10 per cent lived in urban centres. However, because of the overall low performance of the Ethiopian economy, the provision of modern urban facilities, especially those in housing, had remained to be a problem.

136. In the area of housing provision, there were four types of participation: co-operatives, the Government, urban dweller's associations and individuals. Inspite of the Government's efforts, the housing situation left much to be desired, however, a substantial amount of activity was currently under way involving all four participants.

137. The environmental problems of Ethiopia were not different from those of other African countries. As pointed out by the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, the problems arose mainly from conditions which denied the most basic needs of life to the majority of people. The most serious related to insufficient food, shelter, widespread disease and ill health which continued because of the lack of basic health care resources, education and even the minimum correct information about infectious diseases.

138. Ethiopia's environmental problems could be summarized in terms of their impotance: land and soil degradation, deforestation; drought and desertification, water resource management, environmental problems related to human settlements, environmental diseases, and low level of environmental awareness.

139. National objectives and policies regarding environmental management had been formulated since the beginning of the Ethiopian Revolution in 1974. The pressing problems of deforestation and desertification had been met squarely with programmes of afforestation, soil and water conservation, and rational management of wildlife resources.

140. The importance attached to environmental issues had been clearly demonstrated by the designation of protection and management of the environment as one of the major objectives of the Ten-year perspective plan (1984 to 1993). In 1986, about 134 million tree seedlings had been planted. This represented 24 per cent of the planned target.

141. Other targets to be fulfilled within the framework of the Ten-year perspective plan were land use studies covering about 13 million hectares of land (10 per cent of the total area of the country); small-scale irrigation to develop 50,000 hectares; terracing of nearly one million hectares; planting on 1.5 million hectares of land; and revitalization of some 720,000 hectares, of degraded land. Regarding afforestation programmes, a forest reserve area of 1.6 million hectares was to be established and registration of 381,200 hectares of forest land. All in all, the extent of forested area at the end of the Ten-year plan period will have increased to about nine million hectares or more than seven per cent of the total area of the country. This is a substantial achievement compared to the four per cent forest coverage of the current period.

142. The representative of Nigeria said that over the past 18 months his Government had succeeded in creating greater awareness and commitment in evolving and maintaining a liveable environment. The activities undertaken in the field of human settlements covered such areas as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), the Nigerian States Urban Development Programme (NSUDP), national urban development policy, rural development and national urban sites and services programmes.

143. In 1986, his Government had hosted the ECOWAS subregional seminar on IYSH and provided 500,000 Naira ($US 700,000) for IYSH activities. Sixteen States had so far formed IYSH steering committees, a majority of which had initiated slum upgrading projects in collaboration with the national steering committee.

144. The Nigerian States Urban Development Programme was a key shelter improvement scheme aimed at encouraging home ownership and upgrading squatter settlements with the assistance of the World Bank. Two pilot projects were being implemented, one in Bauchi State (financed with an external loan of $US 17.8 million) and the other in Imo State (financed with an external loan of $US 53 million). The Urban and Regional Planning Division of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing was in the process of finalizing a draft policy document which would provide broad guidelines on urban development for the entire country. Preliminary work had been started on an integrated regional plan for the country which would highlight human settlements problems and issues that cut across State boundaries.

145. As far as environmental matters were concerned, the Federal Government had been concentrating on the following three broad areas:

(a) Drought and desertification: The activities being undertaken to combat the impact of drought and desertification throughout the country included the sinking of boreholes to tap underground water, the building of dams to store water for irrigation and domestic use and the planting of trees to control desertification;

(b) Erosion: Work had been started in the southern part of the country to control coastal erosion while studies were ongoing to identify appropriate solutions to inland erosion;

(c) Environmental protection: The Federal Government was in the process of establishing a National Environmental Protection Agency which would be responsible, inter alia, for developing and enforcing national standards for environmental protection and improvement. In the meantime, a number of activities aimed at improving and protecting the quality of the environment would continue to be undertaken. Public awareness campaigns on general environmental sanitation had been launched by all the governments throughout the country. The Federal Government had also undertaken a number of studies aimed at formulating a sound domestic and industrial waste - management policy for the country. The Government regularly monitored the activities of oil companies operating in the country; they had now been issued codes of practice with the view to limiting the occurences of oil pollution in the oil-prospecting areas.

146. The representative of UNESCO to Ethiopia and Liaison Officer with ECA and OAU reiterated that the meeting was taking place within the context of the Lagos Plan of Action, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) in which UNESCO had fully participated within its area of competence. In view of the drought, desertification and other critical problems of the region, UNESCO had prepared an action programme to address the problem.

147. Two important meetings, the First Congress of African Scientists and CASTAFRICA II were scheduled to consider this year (1987) the form of action necessary for the effective implementation of that programme, in close co-operation with OAU, ECA and other organizations of the United Nations. He stated that following the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa and the decision to nominate the Director of the Co-ordinating Committee for the implementation of the Plan of Action, UNESCO would fully participate and co-operate in that effort.

148. He added that the actions pursued and envisaged by UNESCO in human settlements and environment were closely co-ordinated with ECA, UNEP and HABITAT and other regional organizations and constituted a multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach including education, the natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture and communication, as defined in the UNESCO medium-term plan for 1984 - 1989 and in line with its biennial programme of action encompassing 14 major projects for the period. The adoption by the First Conference of African Ministers of Culture organized by OAU at Harare in 1986, in close collaboration with UNESCO, had put cultural development into its proper perspective. He emphasized that knowledge of the different natural environments of the African continent and their resources was promoted through the numerous activities of the major international and intergovernmental programmes launched worldwide by UNESCO. These were the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), and the Programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). A distinctive feature of these scientific programmes was that they gave greater emphasis and priority to the training of specialists in the mastery and utilization of science and technology for the attainment of skills that were necessary for the management of human settlements within their respective environments. UNESCO had endeavoured to contribute through education, training and research, to the advancement of knowledge in ecological systems and their interaction with human activities in the following areas:

(a) Geological structures and their mineral potential;

(b) Hydrological processes and the evaluation and proper use of water resources;

(c) The determination of the relationships between ocean dynamics and climate; and

(d) The exploitation of mineral and biological resources.

149. The scientific development of any country rested basically on the development of a sound educational system with man as the centre of development. In this regard, the development and renovation of the educational system at all levels was to play a central role in the overall national development effort. It was therefore, imperative that a concerted approach, whether in policy, strategy, content, methodology, facilities and training, be constantly elaborated to ensure the participation of all citizens in political activities aimed at guiding the community in its correct course of development within a given socio-cultural environment.

150. In conclusion, the representative of UNESCO said that the State, as embodied in its various institutions, and particularly the communication sector, needs to play a leading role in the dissemination of essential information needed to ensure the fullest participation of all communities.

151. UNESCO placed considerable emphasis on inter-agency co-operation in the implementation of its activities. To foster this, a co-operation agreement between ECA and UNESCO had been supported by regular joint consultative meetings and similar co-operation had been forged between OAU and UNESCO so that these mechanisms, in addition to the Co-operative Agreements with various United Nations agencies such as FAO, ILO and other international organizations would ensure the necessary inter-agency co-operation.

152. The representative of WMO stated that the organization had a long record of activities in the area of urban and building climatology and in matters related to climate and human health. To this effect, the organization had produced several guidance materials. Integrated planning in human settlements required a detailed knowledge of climate resources like sunshine, wind flow, rainfall patterns and atmospheric stability. The national meteorological service, which was the focal point of WMO programmes, was generally well vested with the necessary knowledge in local climate. As regards the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action, WMO was closely collaborating with UNEP by putting the existing and operational climatology station network and its associated networking mechanisms at the disposal of the African ministerial conference on the environment.

153. The representative gave a brief account of the preparatory actions undertaken by WMO with regard to the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD). These were contained in two information documents available to the Committee. The WMO Regional Association (Africa) which was the intergovernmental body of African States in meteorology and operational hydrology, had adopted resolution 25 (IX-RA1) whereby it expressed full support to the ECA Conference of Ministers and called on its members to actively support the Centre. The other document gave an overview of the report of the consultants on ACMAD regarding its functions and organizational structure and its implementation strategy. In continuation with the preparatory phase, ECA/WMO consultants were to visit potential host countries and a study team was visiting several African countries to assess the need to improve the existing WMO telecommunication facilities so as to ensure timely exchange of data and products with the Centre. The draft constitution of the Centre proposes two alternatives for the Chairman of the Board of Governors. In view of its experience in the operation of regional and global centres and considering that regular consultations would be necessary in the operation of ACMAD, WMO would submit that the second alternative be retained whereby the Chairman be selected from the Board members. WMO would recommend that the technical criteria adopted by the inter-agency meeting be retained as the basis for site selection. It was felt necessary that an estimate of the capital and other costs be worked out, based on the consultants' report, to enable potential host countries to take an early decision. A preliminary analysis of the economic impact of ACMAD would also prove useful to the decision makers.

154. The representative of FAO said that his organization was glad to note that there was a general concern in most African countries on both issues of human settlements and envorinment and their inter-relationship.

155. FAO had classified the main problems associated with environmental degradation affecting the continent into the following four categories:

(a) Forest depletion and its degradation, both in closed and open formations;

(b) Forests and bushfires;

(c) Fuelwood and charcoal wasting; and

(d) Soil erosion and desertification.

156. To indicate the magnitude and gravity of the situation, the representative pointed out that, annually, about 200 million cubic metres of timber were lost in the closed humid forests mainly as a result of shifting cultivation and exploitation for timber purposes and that for example, Nigeria would lose about 492 million cubic metres of its closed productive forests before the end of this century if adequate measures were not undertaken. In the open woodlands, it was estimated that more than 150 million cubic metres were used annually primarily for fuelwood, charcoal and construction purposes.

157. Aware of these alarming rates of forest and soil resources depletion and degradation, FAO had launched a very broad action plan entitled "Tropical Forestry Action Plan" containing five priority areas for action, namely:

(a) Forest in land use: This aimed at conserving the resource base for agriculture (watershed management and desertification control) and at integrating forestry into agriculture systems (agro-forestry development), so as to rationalize the use of the land;

(b) Forest-based industrial development: This aimed at promoting an appropriate forestry industry through plans for forest management and conservation;

(c) Fuelwood and energy: Through this action the objectives were directed at accelerating corrective action and restoring firewood supplies in the countries more affected by wood energy deficits;

(d) Conservation of tropical forest ecosystems: Aimed at conserving, managing and utilizing tropical plants and wildlife genetic resources by the development of national networks of protected areas, and research into the management of tropical forest for a sustained production; and

(e) Institutions: In this area, the main objective was the strengthening of public forest administrations and related government agencies.

158. It was evident that FAO, through this plan, was offering a realistic approach to supplementary efforts geared at integrating the national resources and utilization of forests and water resources for the benefit of the continent.

159. The representative of ILO said that the organisation had multifarious and alternating activities in the sphere of human settlements and environmental establishments. To simply enumerate some of those activities and put them against the background of the International Year or Shelter for the Homeless one could mention the following:

(a) The Special Public Works Programmes had been set up by the organization for the benefit of various communities; these were road maintenance, the fight against desertification and distribution of potable water; and

(b) ILO had engaged in feasibility and evaluation studies, training programmes and follow-up courses. ILO consequently had developed a systematic professional training method with model qualification programmes.

160. Through the special public works programmes, ILO had carried out community-oriented actions such as the maintenance of access roads to villages. The distribution of drinking water, the construction of homes, schools, health and sanitation centres.

161. ILO had prepared technical handbooks on brick manufacturing, small-scale production of quick-lime, windows and doors.

162. With regard to vocational training, ILO had devised a systematic professional training method using modules for qualification programmes. Educational materials had also been prepared for masonry, concrete works and carpentry.

163. The representative of the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation (CIB) presented his organization to the meeting and informed the meeting that CIB was an international, non-governmental, non-profit-making organization whose purpose was to encourage, facilitate and develop international co-operation in building, housing and planning research, studies and documentation, covering not only the technical but also the economic and social aspects of building and the environment.

164. The representative of CIB said that it was the primary mechanism through which the international building community exchanged findings on building research and practice which endeavoured to achieve its objectives by:

(a) Promoting international co-operation between all types of building research organizations;

(b) Encouraging the international exchange of research personnel;

(c) Fostering exchange of building and construction information and research documentation; and

(d) Sponsoring international symposiums on topical themes and holding a triennial congress.

165. The main thrust of CIB's work was carried out through a network of over 40 working commissions which were composed of specialist representatives of CIB member institutions and of other co-opted experts. These dealt with a variety of topics selected from CIB's field of interest. The overall programme of the working commissions' activities was continually reviewed by the programme committee. CIB had a number of working commissions which were specifically dealing with problems of interest to the developing countries. Among those were the following:

(a) Timber structures, tropical hardwoods;

(b) Low-cost housing;

(c) Energy conservation in the built environment in the developing countries;

(d) Building climatology;

(e) Natural disasters mitigation; and

(f) Utilization of local materials and agricultural by-products.

166. He concluded that CIB, in collaboration with the Réunion internationale des laboratoires d'essais et de recherche sur les materiaux de construction (RILEM) organized the Nairobi Symposium on "Appropriate Building Materials for Low-Cost Housing" in 1983. This symposium was the first in a series in the African region. The second - for Asia and the Pacific region - took place in Bangkok from 19 to 26 January 1987. The third was expected to take place in Latin America within the coming three years.

167. The representative of the Africa Union of Architects said that in order to contribute to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the representative of Africa Union of Architects (AUA) had decided to organize its third Congress, which would deal with the state-of-the-art in construction and town and country planning in Africa (AFRICABAT) from 7 to 12 January 1983 in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting would be jointly organized by the African Development Bank, Shelter-Afrique and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and possibly ECA, UNESCO and all other organizations interested in the event.

168. AFRICABAT would promote better North-South dialogue between public works Ministers and professionals of the building sector and European, American and Asian industrialists, for the revival of the construction of infrastructure and housing in Africa. Here again, the main intention would be to bring about direct dialogue between those who set standards (architects) and the builders or industrialists so that they could speak the same language.

169. In most African countries, more than 80 per cent of what went into construction was imported; yet the establishment of local construction industries helped directly develop industries while solving the problem of Africa's homeless.

170. The establishment of building industries was to be done methodically by ensuring that such industries would be profitable. Everyone knew that the markets of African countries taken individually could not justify the establishment of profitable factories. The ambition of AFRICABAT was to get African economic operators to meet partners likely to bring about a transfer of technology with the assistance of African architects.

Working group A

Human Settlements (agenda item 6)

Study on the establishment and strengthening of training facilities in the field of human settlements in Africa (E/ECA/HUS/23)

171. In introducing document E/ECA/HUS/23, the representative of ECA pointed out that the experience of many African countries during the first three development decades had demonstrated the need to put greater emphasis on the spatial consequences of development. Progress in the human settlements sector could be achieved only if African countries had qualified manpower. While some countries had established their own training institutes, others still relied on expertise from outside the African continent. Training in the area of human ssettlements called for multinational co-operation. The study recommended specific action to be taken at the national and international levels to meet training requirements in the field of human settlements.

172. After the introduction, the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Senegal, Burundi, Zambia and Kenya took the floor to congratulate the secretariat for the quality of the document and the information contained therein. They described the experiences of their own respective countries and how the training institutions in their countries operated.

173. After endorsing the recommendations made in the document, they emphasized the need to develop and to streamline the existing institutions so as to avoid duplication.

174. The representative of Kenya requested that the Rural and Urban Planning Department of the University of Nairobi should be included in the table entitled: "Location of training institutions in some African countries".

175. The representative of Senegal insisted on the need for member States to give priority to regional training institutions for human settlements personnel rather than to national institutions. This approach would help alleviate financial difficulties and other constraints linked to the shortage of manpower and expertise in human settlements planning and management.

176. A representative of ECA, introducing document E/ECA/HUS/24 pointed out that the distinction formerly drawn between economic and social planning objectives and the too strict sectorization of development planning had been arbitrary and untenable and had become increasingly irrelevant. Development included both economic and social objectives. All development planning was "people-centred" in the sense that the population (people) was the basis and beneficiary of all planning.

177. Human settlement incorporated and encompassed almost the universe of human activities and needs including the economic and social. The distribution and settlement of population were closely linked with the broader field of socio-economic development and change. Policies and programmes for human settlements development therefore were part and parcel of national socio-economic development.

178. The irrelevance of the distinctions among macro-economic sectoral and other categorizations of planning were therefore being increasingly realized in several African countries whose development plans documents no longer spoke solely of "Economic Planning" but rather of "Plan for Economic Social and Cultural Development" or of "National Socio-Economic Development Plan". Planning was increasingly being integrated. Almost all the national development plans of African countries examined, indicated that the general objective was that of bringing about an improvement in the living conditions of the people, and that several of these plans emphasized inter-sectoral integration in planning and harmonious interregional development. The necessity for integrating the various aspects of planning including the human settlements aspects was therefore widely acknowledged. The ECA representative went on to review the existing framework for national development plan preparation and integration in several African countries and noted that the framework used varied among countries, and involved three broad structures:

(a) A key ministry of planning and/or finance co-ordinating all sectoral plans;

(b) An Inter-ministerial plan co-ordinating committee, co-ordinating all sectoral plans; and

(c) A planning commission, independent of any sectoral ministry, co-ordinating all the sectoral plans.

179. The strengths and weaknesses of each of these as plan integration framework were reviewed as was their respective potential effectiveness.

180. While recommending the inter-ministerial plan co-ordinating committee framework as the most effective framework for plan co-ordination, the document recognized that the framework and methodology adopted by a given country would depend on which framework the country found more workable under its particular local political milieu and circumstances and on the maturity of the people who operated the given framework. In either case, continual inter-ministerial consultations, discussions and good inter-ministerial information flow was pivotal for successful plan integration.

181. The adopted integrating framework notwithstanding, it was emphasized that for a more effective integration of human settlements policies and programmes into national socio-economic planning, human settlements objectives, goals and priorities had to be reflected among the national plan objectives, goals and priorities at the highest policy levels. This was necessary because it was on the basis of the objectives, goals, and priorities that the programmes and projects to achieve them would be formulated. The chances of achieving integration of basic human settlements programmes in the national socio-economic plans would therefore, be brighter if they were the subject of specific programmes reflected in the overall national plan objectives. He also pointed out that the integration of human settlements programmes into the national socio-economic plan would be much more effective if the location or siting decisions of major projects of other sectors could be made at the beginning of the planning stage because of the implications that the impact of such locations had for human settlements programmes and activities.

182. In conclusion, the representative of the ECA stressed the necessity for continuous interaction between technicians (especially the professional planners) and the people who had ultimate responsibility for political judgement - the politicians - if plans were to be carried through to achieve their designated objectives.

183. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Shelter-Afrique noted that this issue had been with us for sometime now and that the issue should be more relevantly raised at the meeting of Ministers of Economic Development and Planning as they were the targets of the issues raised. He noted also that the document ignored some external factors and actors such as the International Monetary Fund which would prevail on countries not to make substantial allocations to the human settlements sector on the erroneous presumption that the sector was not productive. He suggested that the meeting of Ministers of Economic Planning of ECA be requested to take cognizance of the issues raised in the document.

184. The representative of Rwanda suggested that the problem of integrating hu settlements policies and programmes into national socio-economic development could be a result of language and the way these were presented to national planne Human settlements professionals may not have been making themselves understo He suggested that they should present their case better by showing what contributi human settlements made in the economy and in the achievement of national developm goals and objectives such as the generation of employment and income in hous and public works programmes and projects and in building materials industri It assisted in the wider spread of income to the lower levels. He noted that constitutions and all Governments store for the improvement of the living conditi of their people and human settlements was part of those conditions they sou to impove. He emphasized that human settlements policies and programmes sho be presented in a language understandable to the economist e.g. finan infrastructure, employment and income generation etc., so that it could be bet appreciated, and provided for.

185. The representative of the Congo, referring to paragraph 51 (IV) of document stated that inter-ministerial committees already existed in Afri countries and that what was required was to give these inter-ministerial bod specific directions and responsibilities.

186. The representative of Zaire observed that human settlements programmes sho emphasize the problem of low-income housing and suggested the inclusion of l income housing in the title of the document. The representative of the secretar explained that this was essentially a methodological paper, and that the ti was the title of the element in the official work programme. The concern for l cost housing was however taken note of.

187. The representative of Zimbabwe stated that one of the difficulties integrating low-cost housing programmes into national socio-economic planning that low-income housing was aid-oriented and often not able to justify its economically.

Programme for institutionalizing public housing participation schemes for the l income population in Africa (E/ECA/HUS/25)

188. In his introduction of document E/ECA/HUS/25, a representative of the secretariat said that housing was a primary concern of African Governments wh needed to be looked at within the context of the increase in population and impact on the overall development process. The aim of the study was to consi the various factors that influenced the development of the housing sector and put forward solutions likely to improve current housing policies for the low-inc population.

189. He then spoke about the housing situation in Africa and the role of housi construction societies in national policies before stressing the usefulness public participation schemes as a means of reducing current housing construct costs. The aim of such schemes was to get participants to finance the construct of housing and the maintenance and conservation of collective property and g them the opportunity of contributing, through their personal efforts, to improvement of their respective housing units.

190. He also made a comparative analysis of individual self-help, public participation and contractor construction and mentioned obstacles to the implementation of popular participation in housing construction.

191. In conclusion, he made some recommendations that would lay the foundations for promoting public participation in housing.

192. In the discussions that followed, the speakers congratulated the secretariat for the quality of the document and expressed support for the proposed recommendations.

193. The representative of Senegal underscored the need for member States to co-ordinate their efforts in easing the banking rules and regulations imposed by the Central Banks with regard to housing loans.

194. The representatives of Zimbabwe and Senegal made statements on the experiments carried out in their respective countries the achievements and problems encountered. They proposed that the systems of access to housing credit should be reformulated to meet the needs of the low-income population.

An integrated approach to the evaluation of construction needs of the African region (E/ECA/HUS/26)

195. The representaives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zaire, Botswana and Rwanda contributed to the discussions that followed the presentation of the document. All five representative congratulated the secretariat for the detailed work presented.

196. The representative from the United Republic of Tanzania noted the experiences of his country in the formation of a National Construction Council which was in line with the formation of an inter-ministerial mechanism suggested in the document and proposed the adoption of that particular recommendation. However, the representative of Zaire noted that since the system might be already existing in some countries, a clause should be inserted so that the recommendation covered only those countries which had not yet established such mechanisms.

197. On the second recommendation relating to teaming-up between local and foreign firms, the representative from the United Republic of Tanzania noted that the recommendation should be extended beyond the level of small-scale contractors to cover all national construction companies where necessary. He noted the experiences in his country where a proportion of projects were reserved for national companies.

198. Commenting on the same recommendation, the representative of Zaire noted that while such teaming-up could be desirable, the foreign exchange implications that normally accompanied the hiring of foreign companies should not be forgotten.

199. The representative from Rwanda supported the objectives underlying the second recommendation but suggested the need for intra-African co-operation in construction. He noted that if there could be uniform construction standards for the region, African construction companies could be utilized to avoid dependence upon foreign firms.

200. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania commented on the need to increase productivity and suggested that the use of incentives could be very rewarding.

201. In his observation, the representative of Botswana said that while the document aptly recommended what should be done, it did not indicate how the recommendations could be implemented. The secretariat agreed to take note of such implementation measures in the near future.

Programme of work 1988-1989, Development of building materials industries and construction sector in Africa and human settlements contribution to the implementation of APPER

202. The human settlements programme of work for the 1988-1989 biennium was introduced by the secretariat. Emphasis was put on the orientation of the programme towards implementation of regional policies and programmes. The main focus was on development of infrastructure, accelerated rural transformation, physical planning and the building and construction sector. Within this programme, the project for the development of building materials in Africa was introduced. This regional project was designed to strengthen existing building materials development centres in the production, standardization and commercialization of indigenous building materials along with training of technicians, artisans, entrepreneurs and the mobilization of finance for the commercial production of building materials. Participants were informed of the practical and operational nature of the project which would include the design and construction of pilot housing schemes projects in participating member States. Building codes and standards were to be given special consideration in the implementation of this project. The project was designed by ECA in collaboration with UNCHS (HABITAT) and Shelter -Afrique and both UNCHS (HABITAT) and Shelter Afrique were co-opted by ECA as associate agencies in the execution of this project.

203. Participants were also requested to consider the document entitled "Human Settlements in the Implementation of APPER" which would be considered as the basis for the ECA medium-term programme of work for 1990-1995. The crucial role of rural transformation, physical planning in striking a harmonious interaction between rural and urban areas and the provision of infrastructure as well as the need to mobilize resources were highlighted. The endorsement by the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment (JIRCHSE) of both programmes of work for 1988-1989 and the recommendations for the medium-term plan 1990-1995 were being sought.

Working Group B

Environment (agenda item 7)

204. Under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Housing and Settlements of Gabon as first Vice-Chairman of the fourth meeting of the Joint Committee, the sub-committee on environmental matters discussed agenda items 7(a), (b), (e), (f), (g) and (h). Agenda item (c) and (d) were, introduced at the plenary session under presentation of documents by the secretariat. The principal planner of Botswana was unanimously elected Rapporteur of the sub-committee.

Progress report on 1986-1987 environemnt in Africa programme activities since the last meeting, including consideration of the environment in Africa Work Programme for 1988-1989 biennium (E/ECA/ENV/35)

205. The representative of the secretariat highlighted the main activities in the progress report E/ECA/ENV/35, pointing out the ECA resolutions adopted from the recommendations of the third meeting of the Joint Committee and calling the attention of this fourth meeting to the proposed work programme for the environment in Africa for the 1988-1989 biennium.

206. In the discussion that followed, clarification was requested on the use of the term "legislative bodies" in the "general objectives of the secretariat" of the 1988-1989 work programme. It was decided to delete the term to remove any ambiguity in meaning. Some participants pointed out that too much emphasis was put on drought and desertification control activities whilst nothing was mentioned about natural disasters plaguing African countries, as for example the Lake Nyos natural gas disaster in Cameroon, earthquakes and cyclones common in the island countries and floods in Mozambique. The meeting decided to draft a resolution calling on the secretariat to take into account the different priority environmental problems in different areas of the continent in its biennial activities, especially on natural catastrophes. Several participants regretted the low attendance at this fourth meeting by drought-prone countries which were also affected by desertification. Most of those countries were benefiting from the OAU fund for drought control, but had not shown enough interest to come and discuss their problems at an environmental forum such as this. The meeting recommended a study of the problem involved and then adopted the document including the 1988-1989 Environment in Africa work programme. The meeting also noted that an international conference on the causes and consequences of the Lake Nyos disaster would be held shortly.

Progress report on the development of environmental capabilities to combat desertification and the impact of drought in the Africa region (E/ECA/ENV/31)

207. The ECA secretariat highlighted the points in the above-mentioned document. In the discussion that followed, participants expressed the dissatisfaction that the document did not have updated information on combating desertification in all the countries mentioned. Some participants felt that the document did not give the historical context of most of the activities particularly going back to the late 1970s and early 1980s. One participant also complained that only three of the five MULPOC subregions were reported on in the document.

208 One participant expressed the view that he had expected to see an evaluation of the functioning of national environmental machineries so that an idea could emerge as to the environmental problems that member States were facing. One participant pointed out that it was the duty of member States to help the secretariat in supplying the necessary information by filling in questionnaires that were sent to them from the secretariat.

209. One participant questioned the sources of the information contained in the above mentioned document saying that in his country there were several agencies dealing with environment-related matters and that the secretariat should decide on what national environmental machinery it should deal with.

210. In reply to this, the Chairman pointed out that it was the duty of the Government to inform the secretariat which was the national lead agency on environmental matters with which the secretariat should deal and not the reverse.

211. In reply to the remarks and issues raised by participants the secretariat said that all the amendments would be done and editing errors corrected. The secretariat expressed appreciation for the concern of the participants about the scanty information contained in the document on the functioning of national environmental machineries. The secretariat relied on information it received from member States as some participants had pointed out and the document had stimulated the desire for member States to provide updates to the document and hoped that this would continue so that at the next meeting a more detailed document could be presented.

212. In answer to the question of the sources of information in the document the secretariat pointed out that they were extracts from country reports at the last Joint Committee meeting and country reports at subsequent meeting on drought and desertification. It was pointed out that the report dealt with the situation between the two meetings and did not intend to go back beyond that period.

213. In conclusion, the sub-committee recommended that the secretariat undertake a study on the evolution of national, subregional and regional environmental machineries especially for drought and desertification control. The meeting also took note of the request from the secretariat for updates on country activities in the report, especially in relation to the region plan of action to combat drought as published in Rural Progress, vol. 5 which was distributed at the meeting.

Development of environmental training for technicians on marine pollution, coastal erosion and depletion of marine resources in the Exclusive economic zone (EEZ) (E/ECA/ENV/32)

214. The ECA secretariat presented the document in brief by stating that it was a summary of a consultant's report on the topic. It requested that agenda item 7(h) be discussed under this as the committee agreed.

215. The secretariat requested that each member State should update annex I of the document, which related to institutional resources for monitoring pollution and depletion of living resources in the coasts and marine environment in Africa.

216. The representative of the secretariat stressed that ECA was mostly interested in developing national technical capabilities of African countries for a systematic monitoring of pollution in the coastal marine environment as well as developing the manpower resources.

217. During the discussion, one participant felt that the title and emphasis of training of technicians was in order but he would have liked to see the area of training marine ecologists at professional level stressed in the document. Also clarification was requested on the differences between sewage discharge and domestic/commercial waste discharge and also on negative pollution.

218. On answering the questions raised, the secretariat pointed out that negative pollution was a concept used to indicate pollution due to loss of useful material from the environment such as in coastal erosion, as against ordinary air and water pollution caused by adding toxic substances to the environment.

219. Another participant pointed out that the document only treated problems of marine pollution, without mentioning pollution problems of rivers and lakes. The ECA secretariat pointed out that UNEP had just started a programme on inland waters to address such pollution problems.

220. Another participant observed that the environmental problems of sand, corals and trachyte which are used in the building industry were a major problem in the island countries of Africa. He said that his country had just started a project to study the impact on the marine and inland environment, brought about by the exploitation of these marine resources.

221. After the discussion on this matter, the committee agreed to make a recommendation stressing the importance of developing policies, guidelines and regulations on the environmental problems of harvesting sand, corals, and trachyte on the island environment.

Progress report on the implementation of ECA resolution 578 (XXI) on the African Ministerial Conference on the environment (E/ECA/ENV/33)

222. In his contribution, the UNEP representative emphasized the vital importance of the financial contributions of Governments for the success of the Cairo Programme of Action both as a source of funds for the implementation of the programme and as a catalyst for attracting outside assistance by demonstrating the determination of African Governments to help themselves. He stated that as of the end of January 1987, only 18 Governments had indicated in affirmative terms their acceptance of the financial arrangements. He hoped the remaining Governments would follow suit.

223. With regard to the village and stock-raising, those projects were intended as grass-roots activities based on popular participation and as such they occupied a position of special improtance in the Cairo Programme. Their success was crucial to the success of the entire programme. Preparatory studies on selected villages and stock-raising zones had started in Kenya, Uganda, the Sudan and Zaire and action plans based on these studies would be formulated for implementation by the Governments. Similar actions were envisaged for Senegal, Ethiopia, Egypt and some other countries. The representative of UNEP said that the second meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in June 1987 at Nairobi would consider the relationship and modalities for co-operation with this Joint Committee. He also gave a summary of follow-up actions taken so far.

224. In the discussion that followed, participants expressed the concern that the document did not give them much information on what the secretariat was doing about sorting out the modalities of co-operation between the Joint Committee and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) as contained in resolution 578 (XXI). Participants expressed the concern that the procedures for the exchange of ideas and reports between the two bodies were not clear and wanted to know what the secretariat was doing about this.

225. The representative of the secretariat explained that after the Yaounde session of the ECA Conference of Ministers which passed the resolution, the difficulties that arose were linked with the fact that the Joint Committee had its mandate from the General Assembly through the ECA Conference of Ministers and that any amendment to this mandate had to follow the same procedure. It was further explained that

the most important mandate of the Joint Committee was to review the environment in Africa and human settlement work programmes and make recommendations to the ECA Conference of Ministers and that this role could not be taken over by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment which was established by UNEP in collaboration with ECA and OAU.

226. In conclusion, participants recommended that the secretariat should continue to study the modalities of co-operation with AMCEN.

Report of ECA/WMO inter-Agency consultations on establishing an African centre of meteorological applications for development (ACMAD), Bujumbura, 8-10 October (E/ECA/ENV/34)

227. The representative of the secretariat highlighted the contents of document E/ECA/ENV/34 on the above joint ECA/WMO expert group meeting organized in response to ECA resolution 585 (XXI) to prepare a draft constitution of ACMAD and submit it to the twenty-second session of the Commission through the Joint Committee. He also highlighted the work of the consultants and recommendations of the expert group on the preparatory assistance phase of the project on ACMAD funded by UNDP.

228. Several participants raised points for clarification on the main text and on the draft constitution which was annex III to the document. The ECA secretariat pointed out that on the funding of ACMAD, the same resolution 585 (XXI) had suggested that potential host countries be willing to under-write the capital and other costs of the Centre. Responses were being awaited from Egypt, Kenya, Algeria and the Niger. Senegal had sent a reply that it did not want to be considered as a potential host country. The secretariat also noted that even though donors usually covered most of the financing of an ECA-sponsored centre at its initial phase of 5 years, it was necessary for member States to start with token contributions at the initial phase, with a gradual increase in contributions, to enable Governments to take over completely when the donors withdraw after the Centre is fully established. The WMO representative supplemented this by clarifying the structure of ACMAD as shown in the organigram in annex I and by explaining the meaning of "Centre of Excellence" as the best that could be provided for Africa and of "evolving needs of Africa" in terms of the growth of meteorology to meet economic demands in the continent.

229. On the draft constitution of ACMAD, several participants sought clarification on articles 5, 8, 12 and 16. The ECA secretariat responded that on article 5, paragraph 2(a), it had been the practice in the nearly 30 ECA-sponsored institutions for the Executive Secretary to remain Chairman of the Board of Governors at the initial phase until the institution was well established as constant guidance was needed. However, it was noted that the Board reported through the Joint Committee, to the ECA Conference of Ministers which had the ultimate responsibility. On article 8 paragraph 1, it was pointed out that it was not necessary for the Centre to have previleges and immunities in each member State, only where it was located. Article 12 on the resources of the Centre with paragraph 1 suggesting that the finances of the Centre be derived from contributions made by member States, had been dealt with in the previous paragraph. Article 16 on entry into force did not meet the approval of the majority of the participants.

230. One participant suggested that the matter be brought to the fourteenth instead of the thirteenth ECA Conference of Ministers and another participant suggested that for geographical balance, ACMAD should be located at Burundi where the WMO Regional Office for Africa was located. Finally on the establishment of ACMAD, the sub-committee recommended that:

(a) Document E/ECA/ENV/34 and the draft constitution of ACMAD as annex III, be sent to all African Governments for detailed study for the ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1987;

(b) The ECA secretariat continue to contact donors besides UNDP for the Centre and report to the Conference of Ministers; and

(c) This report be submitted to the thirteenth Conference of Ministers of ECA in April 1987.

Plenary session for the presentation of recommendations by the working groups (agenda item 8)

231. The Joint Committee examined the resolution on human settlements and the recommendations on environmental matters presented by each of the working groups. After extensive discussions and amendments, the Joint Committee adopted the resolution and the recommendations contained in this report as annex I and II.

Other matters (agenda item 9)

232. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Joint Committee were mentioned. It was decided that the date would be 13 to 17 February 1989 in Addis Ababa, unless another member State proposed to host the meeting, thereby accepting all the conditions linked to the organization of such a meeting.

233. The Chairman informed the Committee that some participants had suggested that a message be sent to President Paul Biya of Cameroon in connection with the Lake Nyos disaster. The message was drafted and read to participants.

234. At the request of another participant, a minute of silence was also observed in memory of the victims of the disaster.

Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting (agenda item 10)

235. After examining the draft report paragraph by paragraph, the Joint Committee adopted it with some amendments.

236.. During the closing session, the Chairman, Honourable Hervé Duval, first gave the floor to the ECA Deputy Executive Secretary Mr. Tchouta Moussa who on behalf of the Executive Secretary expressed the regret that he could not attend the meeting of the Joint Committee because of other urgent commitments. He was, however, impressed by the dedication with which the Joint Committee had endeavoured to find a solution to the continent's urgent problems in human settlements and environment. He underlined the importance of human settlements and environment which constituted

one of the priorities defined by the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. He expressed the wish that member States pay special attention to implementing the resolutions and the recommendations adopted by the Joint Committee. In order to help member States implement the decisions taken by the Joint Committee, the ECA secretariat would spare no effort in mobilizing the necessary resources in spite of the financial crisis affecting the United Nations system. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to the Government and to the people of Ethiopia, to the Chairman, the participants and interpreters for their respective contributions.

237. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Government and to the people of Ethiopia for their hospitality, to his colleagues members of the Bureau, to the participants, interpreters and the ECA secretariat for their co-operation and to all those who had contributed to the success of the meeting. He expressed the hope that member States would implement the decisions adopted by the joint committee then he declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX I

RESOLUTION ON THE JOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT

Considering that rural transformation based on sound regional and physical planning are vital to the implementation of APPER,

Conscious of the rich experiences available in Africa and the need to promote exchanges of these experiences among its member States,

Aware of the limited resources available for the development of member States,

Recognizing that the building and construction sector plays a crucial role in other sectors such as agriculture, industry, transport and communications and in the provision of physical infrastructure in human settlements,

Recognizing that effective human settlements development requires close co-operation between the public and private sectors as well as community participation at the local level,

Recognizing that the development of the human settlements sector requires the availability of trained human resources at all levels,

Noting the high priority given to training in the field of human settlements by Governments, ECA and UNCHS (HABITAT) in the respective work programmes,

Noting that the 1988-1989 and the medium-term priorities for member States 1990-1995 as presented under the work programmes of ECA have been prepared in collaboration with UNCHS (HABITAT) in order to ensure effective co-ordination and harmonization of activities in the area of human settlements in the region,

1. Appeals to member States to give higher priority to physical planning, development and management of their human settlements;

2. Further appeals to member States to give special focus on creating an enabling environment for the homeless, the poor and the disadvantaged groups to improve their own shelter and neighbourhoods;

3. Immediately Urges member States to take necessary measures to integrate physical planning and rural transformation policies and programmes into national socio-economic development planning;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA in co-operation with the Executive Director of UNCHS (HABITAT), and the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique, UNDP and the World Bank and other aid agencies to mobilize resources, for the provision of technical assistance, upon request, from member States in the formulation and implementation of Shelter and Human Settlements policies and programmes;

5. Urges member States to promote policies conducive to the development of the construction sector along the following lines:

(a) Strengthening building materials as well as its utilization and to train local technicians, artisans for the construction of infrastructure and implementation of rural transformation;

(b) Revision of the building codes and standards in consonance with the prevailing circumstances in member States;

(c) Promoting the informal sector, i.e. the small-scale contractors, building co-operatives as they are labour-intensive enterprises producing multiplier effects for all sectors of the economy at a low capital intensity;

(d) Developing of low-cost solutions for all building types and needs. This could be done by the design and execution of pilot projects which establish clear precedents for large scale projects; and

(e) Establishing and or strengthening existing housing finance institutions catering for the poorest section of the society.

6. Commends the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Executive Director of UNCHS (HABITAT) and the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique for their efforts to formulate a major regional project designed to assist African Governments in the development and production of indigenous building materials to meet the immediate needs of low-cost shelter and infrastructure construction;

7. Appeals to Shelter Afrique, UNDP and other aid agencies to give favourable consideration to providing the necessary financial resources for the effective implementation of this project;

8. Urges member States to remove institutional barriers that may present obstacles in the efforts of the poor and disadvantaged groups to improve their own shelter and neighbourhoods;

9. Recommends that member States explicitly promote community participation in human settlements planning, development and management and adopt policies and programmes that would enable the people to fully participate in meeting their own shelter and related needs;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary in co-operation with UNCHS (HABITAT), to assist member States in promoting human resources development to meet the requirements of urban and rural settlements inter-alia, through: (a) development of training materials, (b) organization of training courses and workshops, (c) establishment of networks of human settlements training institutions, (d) continuous assessment and evaluation of human settlements training in Africa, and (e) mobilization of resources and co-ordination of the programmes of various aid organizations concerned with human settlements training in Africa;

11. Endorses the 1988-1989 work programmes and the Medium-term Priorities for member States 1990-1995 in the human settlements sector, as proposed by the Executive Secretary.

ANNEX II

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

I. Agenda item 7 (b)

The fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment after examining the progress report on the development of environmental capabilities to combat desertification and the impacts of drought in the Africa region (document E/ECA/ENV/31), recommended to the ECA secretariat to undertake an evaluation of the evolution of desertification and drought in Africa in relation with the efforts being undertaken by agencies working on combating desertification.

To facilitate this evaluation which should be submitted to the fifth meeting of the Joint Committee, an appeal was made to member States to forward the necessary data (information) to ECA and respond to questionnaires that would be sent out to this effect.

II. Agenda item 7 (b)

The meeting recommended the integration of programmes of human settlements together with those of forests and soils management and conservation:

Considering

The direct relationship between the establishment of human settlements and utilization of forest resources, especially for building poles and fuelwood, and that the forest resources must play an important role in the supply of basic commodities in space and time, especially for the rural communities,

Recommends

1. The strengthening of the capabilities of the respective countries of the region in both fields, in order to set up plans and programmes for settlements, and taking into account the production capacity of lands and forests vis-à-vis the needs of the communities;

2. That the FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan becomes the main tool for channelling the activities that are aimed at a developing and conserving the forest and soil resources of the continent, closely with rural development activities.

III. Agenda item 7 (c)

The Conference recommends that the island countries take appropriate action based on their realities at a national level to protect the marine environment, in particular activities associated with the exploitation of marine resources, namely sand, corals and trachyte. We therefore recommend that, a regional project be developed to study the existing state-of-the-art of the exploitation of marine resources such as sand, corals and trachyte, and make appropriate recommendations to States concerned; that ECA and UNEP should look at the appropriate modalities for developing such a regional project and find the financial resources to implement it.

IV. Agenda item 7 (f)

After examining the progress report on the implementation of resolution 578 (XXI) on the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) the fourth meeting of the Joint Committee recommended that the secretariat should continue to study the modalities of collaboration with UNEP and OAU in the implementation of the Cairo programme, as well as that on co-operation between AMCEN and this Joint Committee.

V. Agenda item 7 (g)

Having considered the report of the ECA/WMO Inter-agency meeting on the establishment of ACMAD;

Considering that the fundamental problems relating to financing, providing equipment, how member States were to pay their contributions and where the headquarters of ACMAD would be established had yet to be resolved.

The Committee recommends that the Executive Secretary of ECA should:

(a) Pursue his contacts with the United Nations Environment Programme and other international agencies in order to secure the funds needed to finance the activities of ACMAD;

(b) Continue the joint ECA/WMO study on telecommunications in Africa financed by the Federal Republic of Germany in order to find the appropriate equipment for ACMAD;

(c) Undertake, on the basis of the criteria selected, technical visits to the countries willing to host ACMAD; and

(d) Submit a detailed report on these fundamental problems to the fourteenth ordinary session of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.13/33/Summary
1 April 1987

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
13-20 April 1987

Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-second session of the Commission/ thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
23-27 April 1987

Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE JOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT

Executive Summary

* E/ECA/TPCW.8/1.
** E/ECA/CM.13/1.

87-774

1. The fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment was held in February 1987 at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Addis Ababa. It was attended by representatives of the following ECA member States: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2. Most of the discussions of the Joint Committee were held in plenary. All the documents were introduced in plenary sessions for general discussions, detailed technical discussions on each of the documents were held by the two working groups on human settlements and environment.

3. With regard to human settlements issues, the representative of ECA outlined the main activities undertaken by the ECA secretariat from August 1985 to January 1987. The discussions on these activities focused on the following areas: human settlements planning, development of building materials industries, popular participation in housing schemes and co-operation between ECA and other international organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

4. On environmental questions, the representative of ECA introduced to the participants the seven working documents on environmental matters. During the 1986-1987 biennium, the work programme on the environment in Africa had focused on the implementation of ECA resolutions 446 (XVII) on combating desertification in Africa, 474 (XVIII) on the strengthening of African capabilities in environmental matters and 585 (XXI) on the establishment of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).

5. After the presentation of the various documents on Human Settlements and Environment, the representatives of the following countries also introduced their country reports and activities relating to human settlements and environment in their respective countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The representatives of the following organizations also participated in the discussions: the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Shelter-Afrique, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Housing Council (IHC) and the Africa Union of Architects (AUA).

6. The working group on human settlements considered the following technical documents submitted by the secretariat:

(a) Progress report on human settlements activites during the 1985-1986 period;

(b) Integrating human settlements policies and programmes into national socio-economic development planning;

(c) An integrated approach to the evaluation of building construction needs of the African region;

(d) Programmes for promoting institutionalized public participation systems in human settlements;

(e) Programmes for establishing and strengthening training facilities for human settlements personnel at all levels in Africa; and

(f) Human settlements: work programme for the 1988-1989 biennium.

7. The working group on environment examined the following technical documents submitted by the secretariat:

(a) Progress report on the Environment in Africa Programme 19861987, activities since the last meeting, including consideration of Environment in Africa Work Programme for 1988-1989 biennium (E/ECA/ENV/35);

(b) Progress report on the development of environmental capabilities to combat desertification and the impact of drought in the African region (E/ECA/ENV/31);

(c) Prevention of encroachment on arable land in Africa (E/ECA/ENV/24/Rev.1);

(d) Developing national environmental standards in Africa (E/ECA/ENV/17);

(e) Development of environmental training for technicians on marine pollution, coastal erosion and depletion of marine resources in the exclusive economic zone (E/ECA/ENV/32);

(f) Cairo Ministerial Conference and progress report on ECA resolution 578(XXI)(E/ECA/ENV/33);

(g) Report of ECA/WMO interagency expert consultations on establishing an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), Bujumbura, 8-10 October 1986 (E/ECA/ENV/34);

8. In the course of the discussions that followed the introduction of the above-mentioned documents, the participants raised several questions that influenced the final recommendations.

9. After considering the documents submitted by the ECA secretariat, the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment adopted a resolution on human settlements with special reference to land development policies in Africa, policies and programmes on human settlements, the development of the building sector and training in the field of human settlements in Africa.

10. The Joint Committee also made the following recommendations on environmental matters:

(a) To encourage the participation of drought-stricken African countries to attend such meetings on environmental matters so as to share their experiences with other member States;

(b) Monitoring desertification and drought in Africa;

(c) Integration of human settlements programmes with those on forest and soil management and conservation;

(d) Protection of the marine environment in the island countries;

(e) Co-operation between ECA, UNEP and OAU in the implementation of the Cairo programme of action and between the Ministerial Conference on Environment and the Joint Committee; and

(f) Continuation of activities for the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).